

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

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R 161803 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 186

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 13580

E. O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, FR, SA

SUBJ: FRANCO- SAUDI RELATIONS: VISIT OF KING FEISAL

DEPT PASS USINT CAIRO

DEPT PASS ABU DHABI

BEIRUT PASS USINT BAGHDAD

SUMMARY: STATE VISIT OF SAUDI ARABIAN KING WHICH BEGAN MAY 14 AND NOW AT MID- POINT HAS BEEN MARKED BU FULSOME EXCHANGE OF GREETINGS BETWEEN FEISAL AND POMPIDOU AND STATEMENTS OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION, TRUST AND FRIENDSHIP. FOCUS OF FORMAL TALKS HAS BEEN MIDDLE EAST BUT BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCLUDING ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND MILITARY COOPERATION HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCUSSED. END SUMMARY.

1. " FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY," KING FEISAL TOLD LEADERS OF FRANCO- SAUDI FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY ARE  
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PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS OF CURRENT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. FROM LIMITED EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE, THESE INDEED HAVE BEEN THEMES OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN KING FEISAL AND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU AS FIRST STATE VISIT TO FRANCE OF SAUDI MONARCH REACHES MID- WAY POINT. FRIENDSHIP AS AN IMPERATIVE ARISES FROM FACT THAT FRANCE IS ONE OF SAUDI ARABIA' S PRINCIPAL CLIENTS IMPORTING 22 MILLION TONS OF OIL ( ONE FIFTH OF ALL FRENCH IMPORTS). COOPERATION IS EVIDENTLY WHAT FRENCH SEEK IN TERMS OF ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WHICH THEY WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE BALANCED. SOLIDARITY TAKES ITS IMPORTANCE FROM MIDDLE EAST ISSUE WHERE SAUDI AND FRENCH POSITIONS ARE CLOSELY PARALLEL AND WHERE TWO COUNTRIES OCCUPY MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN ISRAELIS ON ONE HAND AND ARAB EXTREMISTS ON OTHER.

2. ACCORDING TO ALL PRESS COMMENTARY ON VISIT, FOCUS OF EARLY DISCUSSIONS WAS ON SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST. AT DINNER AT TRIANON PALACE IN VERSAILLES POMPIDOU STATED THAT DURABLE PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST MUST BE BASED ON RESPECT FOR TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF VARIOUS STATES AND ON RESOLUTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS. NOTING GRAVITY OF CURRENT LEBANESE SITUATION, POMPIDOU STATED THAT FRANCE WOULD DO ITS BEST TO SEE THAT DURABLE PEACE CAME ABOUT. FRANCE, HE SAID, SINCE DAYS OF DE GAULLE HAD TRIED WITHOUT RESPITE AT ALL LEVELS AND IN CONTACT WITH ALL PARTIES TO CONFLICT AND WITH OTHER COUNTRIES OF WORLD AND THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO FAVOR A JUST AND PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. HINTING AT FRENCH EXPECTATIONS FOR CONCRETE GAINS FROM VISIT, POMPIDOU PAID TRIBUTE TO EXISTING TIES BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES. SUCCESS, HE SAID, ALREADY ACHIEVED IN VARIOUS AREAS, BUT MOST IMPORTANT PROGRESS REMAINED TO BE ACHIEVED.

3. FEISAL IN HIS TOAST ALSO COMMENTED ON MIDDLE EAST, DEMANDING LIQUIDATION OF REMAINS OF AGRESSION AGAINST ARABS AND RESTITUTION TO PALESTINIANS OF THEIR LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. AT A TIME WHEN ARAB COUNTRIES ARE VICTIMS OF AGRESSIONS AND PRESSURES, ARABS, HE SAID, APPRECIATED ATTITUDE AND ACTIONS OF FRANCE IN FAVOR OF JUSTICE. NOTING THAT UN RESOLUTIONS REMAINED WITHOUT EFFECT AND THAT PALESTINIAN PEOPLE HAD UNDERGONE PERSECUTION AND EXILE, HE APPEALED TO ARABS TO EXPRESS SOLIDARITY WITH FRANCE IN EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE JUSTICE, STABILITY AND SECURITY IN NEAR EAST.

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4. IN PRE- VISIT SPECULATION, VIRTUALLY ALL COMMENTATORS AGREED THAT FRENCH WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF VISIT TO PRESENT TO FEISAL ADVANTAGES OF ACQUISITION OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT, BOTH MILITARY ( MIRAGES) AND CIVIL ( CONCORDE), AND SECAM COLOR TV SYSTEM. AT THIS STAGE, IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT ANY DEALS WILL BE SIGNED, BUT FRENCH OBVIOUSLY FEEL THEY HAVE INTEREST IN GETTING BACK PORTION OF LARGE SUMS NOW BEING SPENT IN SAUDI ARABIA FOR

PETROLEUM IMPORTS.

5. ACCORDING TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU' S PRESS SPOKESMAN, MAY 15 MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND OFFICIAL DELEGATIONS WENT INTO SUBJECT OF MILITARY COOPERATION. AGREEMENT APPARENTLY REACHED FOR FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER GALLEY TO GO TO SAUDI ARABIA IN AUTUUM TO INSPECT DELIVERY OF ARMORED CARS, HELICOPTERS AND AUTOMATIC WEAPONS WHICH GOF ALREADY SUPPLYING. SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER WHO PARTICIPATED IN TALKS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PAST FRENCH ARMS DELIVERIES BUT ASKED THAT DELIVERIES BE EXPEDITED. SPOKESMAN NOTED THAT SAUDIS MIGHT SEND SPECIALISTS TO FRANCE FOR TRAINING ON MAINTENANCE OF ARMORED VEHICLES. SPOKESMAN INDICATED THAT CIVIL AVIATION PROBLEMS ALSO TAKEN UP BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS. SAUDI MISSIONS WILL COME TO FRANCE IN FUTURE TO LOOK INTO TYPES OF FRENCH AIRCRAFT WHICH COULD BE OF INTEREST TO SAUDI ARABIA. IN ADDITION TO THESE SUBJECTS, DISCUSSION ALSO TOUCHED ON FRENCH COOPERATION WITH SAUDI ARABIA IN AREA OF PUBLIC WORKS AND WATER DESALINIZATION.

6. REMAINDER OF VISIT INCLUDES MAY 16 MEETINGS WITH DIPLOMATIC CORPS AND ARAB AMBASSADORS, DEMONSTRATION OF FRENCH SECAM COLOR TELEVISION SYSTEM, AND ON MAY 17, FINAL TETE- A- TETE WITH POMPIDOU. AT CEREMONIAL LEVEL ARRANGEMENTS HAVE GONE WITHOUT HITCH, AND AMBIANCE OF CORDIALITY HAS BEEN SUSTAINED THOUGHOUT. IRWIN

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO OR ABU DHABI.

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